

The Creator

Sample Pages *Lesson/Week 26*



www.thedisciplecurriculum.com

The following pages contain samples of Lesson/Week 26 of The Disciple Curriculum Year 1: The Creator. Please feel free to use these pages as you would like to get a feel for the curriculum.

Note: The sample pages are marked with gray boxes and arrows. These contain notes to you as a prospective user, to help you understand how the pieces fit together. The actual curriculum does not contain these notes beyond Lesson 1.

Resources needed for Year 1:

The Creator Lesson Book
The Creator Student Pages (download)
The Creator Story Lessons
The Creator Memory Passages and Storylines
The Creator Memory Passages for Singing (CD 1 and CD 2)

Additional outside materials:

Systematic Theology by Wayne Grudem
Christian Beliefs by Wayne Grudem (for students ages 12+)

Hannah Ploegstra

Overview of passages memorized and doctrines taught in “The Creator”:

Wk	Memory	Theology
1	Genesis 1:1-5 John 1:1-5	God’s word reveals who God is.
2	Genesis 1:6-13	God created the universe out of nothing.
3	Genesis 1:14-19	God created the universe to show his glory.
4	Genesis 1:20-25	The universe that God created was very good.
5	Genesis 1:26-28	God is three persons. They are all fully God. There is only one God.
6	Genesis 1:29-2:3	Creation depends on God, even though he is not part of creation.
7	Genesis 2:4-9	Man is like God in some ways, and is God’s representative on the earth.
8	Genesis 2:10-17	God made us to delight in his creation and to worship him for making it.
9	Genesis 2:18-25	Marriage is a picture of Christ’s unity with the Church.
10	Genesis 3:1-7	Sin is any act, attitude, or way of being that does not fit with the way God made things to be.
11	Genesis 3:8-13	God hates sin, but he ordained sin to come into the world.
12	Genesis 3:14-19	Adam’s sin is counted against all who come from Adam.
13	Genesis 3:20-24	God made a covenant with Adam which depended on Adam obeying God’s commands perfectly.
14	Genesis 4-6 (paraphrase)	Because of Adam’s sin, all people are sinners and will sin.
15	Genesis 7 (paraphrase)	God punishes sin because
16	Genesis 8-9 (paraphrase)	God promised Noah and all of his family that he would never destroy the earth with a flood, and he gave them the sign of this covenant.
17	Genesis 11:1-9	God never does evil, but sometimes he plans for his enemies to do evil things that will accomplish his will.
18	Psalms 104:1-9	God continuously keeps all of the parts of creation working the way he made them to work.

You can prepare for the theology lessons by reading Wayne Grudem’s “Systematic Theology” before each lesson.

Wk	Memory	Theology
19	Psalms 104:1-15, 19-21	God can carry out his plans by directing created things to do what he created them to do.
20	Psalms 104:24-30	God is always in control, and he uses every creature and every event to accomplish his will.
21	Isaiah 65:17, 21-25	God planned what he wanted to do in the world before he created the world.
22	John 1:1-18	Before creation, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit planned with each other to save God's people from the curse of sin.
23	Luke 1:1-7	Jesus was fully human, with a human family, body, mind, and emotions.
24	Luke 23:37-38; Matthew 4:1-4	Although Jesus was fully human, he was also in nature fully God.
25	Matthew 4:5-11	Jesus never sinned, even though he was fully human and Satan tempted him like he had tempted Adam.
26	John 3:1-8	Being born again is when God gives new life to someone's spirit, which allows them to believe in him.
27	John 3:13-21	When we are justified, God counts us righteous because of Christ's obedience. When we are adopted, we belong to his family forever.
28	Matthew 27:45-54	Jesus' death reveals God's mercy and his justice at the same time.
29	Matthew 28:1-15	Jesus died and in three days was raised to life with an undying body.
30	Ephesians 1:3-10	God's plan to reveal his glory includes a plan for bringing his own people to glory at the end of this present creation.
31	Ephesians 1:11-19a	The Holy Spirit is present on earth, doing God's work through the gospel and the Church.
32	Ephesians 1:19b-2:5	The Church is the new nation God created for himself in Christ Jesus out of the nations of the world.
33	Ephesians 2:6-15a	When God makes believers into new creations, he helps them to do the good works he created them to do.
34	Ephesians 2:15b-22	The Church exists to worship God, to strengthen believers, and to share the love and gospel of Christ with unbelievers.
35	Revelation 1:1; 21:1-5, 22-25	Christ will judge all of this present creation according to his justice.
36	Revelation 22:1-7	The new creation will be a place of beauty and joy in the presence of God, without sin or sadness.

26. John 3:1-8

1 Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council. 2 He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him.”

3 In reply Jesus declared, “I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again. ”

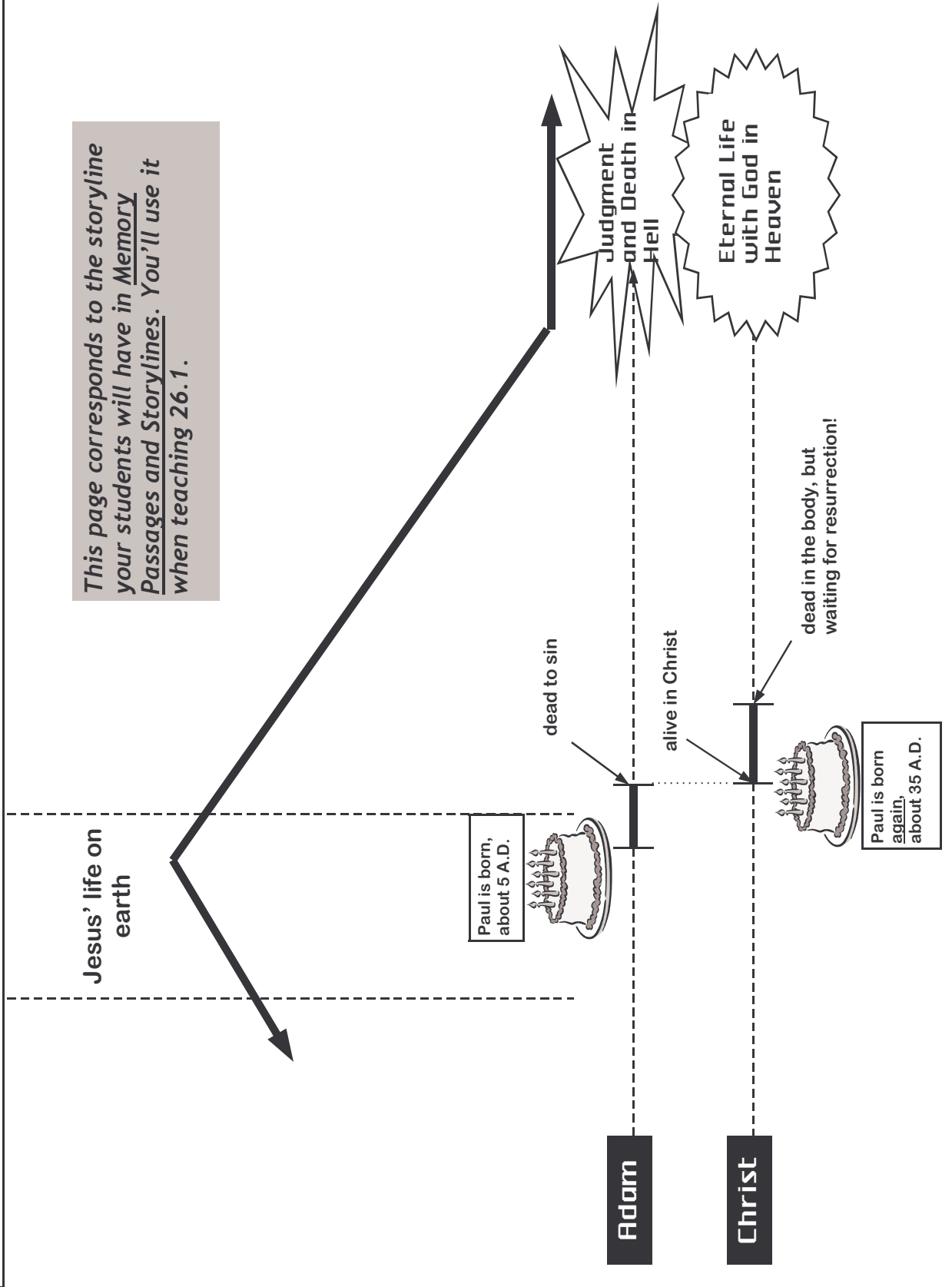
4 “How can a man be born when he is old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!”

5 Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. 6 Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. 7 You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’ 8 The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”

These are the lyrics for Lesson 26. You can use this page to follow along with the CD as you learn the passage. The Memory Passages are taken from the NIV translation.

Two Birthdays

This page corresponds to the storyline your students will have in Memory Passages and Storylines. You'll use it when teaching 26.1.



LESSON 26

Storyline 26 “Two Birthdays”

Memory Passage: John 3:1-8

Theology Lesson: *Being born again is when God gives life to someone’s Spirit, which allows them to believe in him.*

Teacher Prep:

- Play tracks 26-29 of “The Creator” CD in the background in your home each day.
- Occasionally play tracks 1-25 of “The Creator.”
- Read chapter 34 (Regeneration) in *Systematic Theology*. Look up the Scriptures referenced by Grudem in this section. Read them in context.

The information in this box will tell you what content you’ll be teaching for this lesson, and what you can do to prepare for it.

The following pages contain notes for you to use in teaching each session of Lesson 26. The Lesson Book contains extensive explanations and tips for successfully accomplishing the activities in each lesson. These explanations/tips are not included in this sample.

Notes on the music

The music for Jesus’ conversation with Nicodemus is fun and friendly. It shows the sort of innocence or curiosity that Nicodemus had towards Jesus, and the compassionate, inviting way in which Jesus taught about the kingdom of God.

26.1
(Practice memory passage)

Students will use Memory Passages and Storylines with session 26.1

1. Introduce Storyline 26

Storyline 26 talks about the “two birthdays” that every believer has—the day on which his or her body was born and the day on which his or her spirit was born. Ask the students to talk about their birthdays to open the discussion.

from *The Creator Lesson Book*

Here are some questions you can ask:

1. *When was your birthday?*
2. *Who gave birth to you on that day?*
3. *How do you like to celebrate your birthday?*
4. *Why do we celebrate peoples' birthdays?*

In the memory passage for this lesson, Jesus talks about being “born again.” He tells Nicodemus that in order to see the kingdom of God he must be born again. *How odd*, Nicodemus thinks. *How can someone be born twice?*

It's a good question.

Jesus taught Nicodemus that those who want to be in the kingdom of God must have *another* birthday, different from the day they were born to their mother and father.

Your first birthday is your “Adam” birthday. It was the day you joined the human race, born into the family line of Adam with the rest of all humans. This was a happy day for your family, the day you were born. You probably celebrate that day every year with a party and presents, or cake and friends, or some special event.

The apostle Paul was a man who grew up knowing all about God and about what it meant to be a Jew, but for a long time he didn't believe that Jesus was God. He hated anyone who believed in Jesus.

Then God changed him. He “put to death” the old Paul and gave him a new birth, a new mind, a new heart, and a new family in Christ (Colossians 3:5).

Read Acts 9:1-19. This is the story of Paul's SECOND birthday. It tells about the day when he was BORN AGAIN into the family of God.

So Paul had two birthdays. You can color in the birthday cakes at both of Paul's birthdays on the time line. These show the TWO times Paul was born.

Look at the story line to answer these questions:

1. *What family was Paul born into at his first birthday?*
2. *What family was he born into at his second birthday?*
3. *What happens at the end of history to those who die in Adam's family? (Look at the end of the time line.)*
4. *What happens to those who die in Christ's family?*

Each person that you know who believes in Christ has TWO birthdays! Those who believe in Christ have been made alive by his Spirit in order so that they

can see and believe who Jesus is. In Adam we are all born “dead to God” but when the Spirit chooses to give us new life, we are born again, and made “alive.” Then we can learn who our Creator is and begin to live our lives in honor of him, as Christ did and Adam did not.

Ask some people you know who are believers when their first birthday was and when their “second” birthday was. You might have to tell them what you mean! Tell them about Nicodemus and his conversation with Jesus.

DO YOU HAVE TWO BIRTHDAYS???

2. Review theology lessons to date

Using the flash cards from the previous lesson, briefly review the question and answer of Theology Lessons 1-25.

26.2

(Practice memory passage)



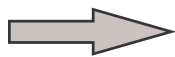
Student Page 26.1

1. The Pharisees were the Jewish men of Jesus’ time who knew A LOT about the Law of Moses. They had studied and memorized all of it, and the people looked to them as the leaders who would tell them what they had to do in order to please God. ***Who is the Pharisee named in John 3 (the memory passage) who came to Jesus with a question about the kingdom of God?***
2. “You are Israel’s teacher,” Jesus says to Nicodemus in verse 10, and do you not understand these things?” Nicodemus shows that the Pharisees did not really understand that the Old Testament laws were about preparing for God to come to earth in Christ. It was good and humble of Nicodemus to come to Jesus with his questions about the kingdom of God. Many other Pharisees didn’t want to hear what Jesus had to teach them, but Nicodemus did. Nicodemus respected Jesus. How can you tell from John 3:2?
 - What did Nicodemus call Jesus? ***teacher*** (Rabbi means teacher.)
 - Where did he admit that Jesus had come from? ***God***
 - What did Nicodemus say Jesus had done that proves he is from God? ***He admits that Jesus has performed signs that prove he is from God.***
3. To enter the kingdom of God, a person must be born again. He must be

- born of **water** and the **Spirit**.
4. What did Jesus mean by being born of “water?” **Water makes us clean, just as we are made clean when God forgives us in Christ. Water is the symbol used for baptism. Baptism is the sign that Christians use to demonstrate that a person is now part of the family of Christ.**
 5. Jesus explains to Nicodemus what it means to be born of the Spirit. What does flesh give birth to? **flesh** What does the Spirit give birth to? **spirit**
 6. Your birthday (the one you usually celebrate) was when your body was born. Who was the one who gave birth to you? **mother’s name**
 7. According to John 3:6, who is the One who gives new birth to a person when he believes in Jesus? **The Holy Spirit**
 8. (verse 7) When a mother is expecting a baby, she has some idea when it will be born, and how it will be born, and she can get ready for it to be born. But no one can control or predict when the Spirit will give new life to an unbeliever. The Holy Spirit is like the wind. According to John 3:8, how can you tell when the wind is blowing? **You can hear its sound**
 9. Can you tell where it has come from or where it is going? **no**
 10. Who is in control of giving new spiritual life to sinful people? **God**

2. Student writing

Students should copy the memory passage.



Student Page 26.2 (ER students only)

26.3 (Practice memory passage)

You’ll need Story Lessons to teach session 26.3

1. Introduce Theology Lesson 26

Theology Lesson 26 is:

What does it mean to be born again? **Being born again is when God gives life to someone’s spirit, which allows them to believe in him.**

Make a flash card for this lesson.

2. Read Theology Lesson Story

You can draw...

- **a princess lying dead in bed**

from *The Creator Lesson Book*

- a man in rags kissing the princess
- an army of soldiers seizing a king

Read “Princess Selena” from *Theology Lessons Book 1*. After reading, discuss these questions:

1. How did Princess Selena die? How old was she?
2. What was her father, the king, like?
3. Why was the king upset that Selena had died?
4. How did Matthew make her come alive?
5. What happened when Selena became alive again?
6. How did Prince Hector beat King Horace in the end?
7. Can a man really make a dead girl come alive? Can God make a dead person live? How do we know that God has the power to give life?
8. Did Selena ask to be made alive? Could she have asked? Can someone who is spiritually dead (dead in their ability to know God) ask for God to give them life?
9. What was the sign that Selena had truly become Matthew’s daughter? What is the sign that someone has become God’s child?
10. Would Selena have kissed Matthew if he had not brought her to life? Will someone believe in Jesus if God hasn’t first brought their spirit back to life

SUPPLEMENT 1 (returning students ages 10+)

Read *Christian Beliefs* page 90-94. Do *Student Page S26.3*



SUPPLEMENT 2 (high school /adult)

Read chapter 34 in *Systematic Theology: Regeneration*

26.4

(Practice memory passage)

1. Review the last 9 Theology Lessons

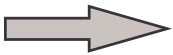
Using the flash card from the previous sessions, review Theology Lessons 18-25.

2. I Get It page

- There are two stick figures on the I Get It page. One represents the state

of all who are born in Adam (that is, all humans when they are born) and one represents the state we enter when God gives us new birth into the family of Christ.

- Point out the rays at the top of the page showing the “gospel call” which goes out to unbelievers. When God’s Spirit gives new life to a person’s spirit, they become able to hear and understand and believe the message of Christ. Where God does not give new birth, a person does not have the capacity to receive the gospel of salvation in Christ.
- Talk about the ways in which we are born unable to hear, understand, or believe the gospel message. Point out the X’s on the stick figures eyes, ears, and heart. On the lines below the figure, write phrases such as “can’t hear the gospel,” “can’t see the truth of God,” “can’t love God,” etc. Think of the ways in which we are unable to know God in our original sinful state.
- Then talk about the differences which occur when that same person is born again in Christ. What new things is he able to do? Notice the “unblocked” ears, the open, focused eyes, the open, living heart, and the open mouth which can now profess faith. Write phrases on the lines below which show how someone who is born again is able to respond in faith to God.



Student Page 26.3

3. Apologetics discussion

This discussion will bring together what was learned from the memory passages and theology lessons in this Lesson. You can conduct the discussion orally, or have students write out their answers on *Student Page 26.4*. Older students or students using the SUPPLEMENT can also be required to include references or examples to defend their arguments.

The answers given in this teacher key are for guidance only. Allow the discussion to wander if the students are thinking about the concepts. Also, adjust the answer to your own understanding of theology. Prepare your own argument before conducting the discussion by reading Wayne Grudem’s *Systematic Theology* or the systematic theology of your choice before you teach.

This week we learned what it means to be born again. Pretend like I am someone who doesn’t know what being “born again” means. I am going to say things that aren’t true or that are only partly true about what we’ve learned this week. I want you to politely and kindly tell me how I am wrong, using the memory passage or theology lesson that you’ve studied:

Teacher: If I tell someone about Jesus, and they don’t believe in him, then I

haven't done a very good job of telling them.

Possible answer: *The success of evangelism depends entirely on God's creation of new life in a dead heart. We cannot do this work; only God can create life.*

**

Teacher: Once someone hears the gospel, it is up to them to decide if they want to believe in Jesus or not, and if they like the message, they'll believe in him, and if they don't, they won't. Everyone has to decide for themselves. Once they decide, then God will come into their hearts.

Possible answer: *A person only has the ability to choose God if God has first breathed life into his or her dead heart. God does the first act of salvation; our faith is the response to this new life inside of us, like Lazarus "came forth" after Jesus had called him and given him life to do so.*

**

Teacher: God doesn't do anything to save someone until they invite him to.

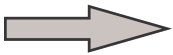
Possible answer: *No person "dead in their sins" will invite God (whose existence they suppress) to do anything. God must first regenerate their hearts, and then they will invite (or beg) him to come in.*

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Teacher: The very first thing that has to happen in order for you to be saved is you have to change the way you're living and turn from your sins.

Possible answer: *God changes our habits and desires after he has given us faith to believe in him. We cannot be like him until we belong to him.*



Student Page 26.4

4. Student writing

Students should write a 1-3 sentence summary of the memory passage.



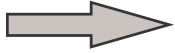
Student Page 26.5 (ER students only)

26.5

(Practice memory passage)

1. Test

The test can be conducted orally for younger students if necessary.



Student Page 26.6

2. Storytelling

(Please see “Storytelling Tips” in the introduction for suggestions on how to adapt this activity to various ages and abilities.)

Your Best Birthday

We have been doing a lot of thinking about birthdays this lesson. Write a story about the best birthday you ever had. Maybe all your friends were there, or maybe it was great because it was a surprise! Or, if you want, write what your best birthday *would* be like if you could have it be just the way you wanted.

Don't just write a list of all the great things that happened on your birthday. Be a story teller! Tell about the events leading up to the celebration, and tell about who was there, things that people said, and how you felt. What kind of day was it? Did anything go wrong? How did you feel when the day was over? Why was it your best birthday?

from The Creator Student Pages (download)

26.1

The Pharisees were the Jewish men of Jesus' time who knew A LOT about the Law of Moses. They had studied and memorized all of it, and the people looked to them as the leaders who would tell them what they had to do in order to please God. Name the Pharisee in John 3 who comes to Jesus with a question.

“You are Israel’s teacher,” Jesus says to Nicodemus in verse 10, and do you not understand these things?” Nicodemus shows that the Pharisees did not really understand that the Old Testament laws were about preparing for God to come to earth in Christ. It was good and humble of Nicodemus to come to Jesus with his questions about the kingdom of God. Many other Pharisees didn’t want to hear what Jesus had to teach them, but Nicodemus did.

How can you tell that Nicodemus respected Jesus (verse 2)?

He calls him “_____” (Rabbi means teacher.)

He admits that Jesus has come from _____

He admits that Jesus has performed _____
prove he is from God.

To enter the kingdom of God, a person must be born again. He must
be born of _____ and the _____

What did Jesus mean by being born of “water?”

Water makes us clean, just as we are made clean when God forgives us in Christ. Water is the symbol used for baptism. Baptism is the sign that Christians use to demonstrate that a person is now part of the family of Christ.

(verse 6) Jesus explains to Nicodemus that flesh gives birth to _____
but the Spirit gives birth to _____.

Your birthday (the one you usually celebrate) was when your body was born. Who was the one who gave birth to you?

According to John 3:6, who is the One who gives new birth to a person when he believes in Jesus?

For use with session 26.2. Answers in Lesson Book. This study page can be conducted orally with younger students who have memorized the passage but are unable to write the answers here.

(verse 7) When a mother is expecting a baby, she has some idea when it will be born, and how it will be born, and she can get ready for it to be born. But no one can control or predict when the Spirit will give new life to an unbeliever. The Holy Spirit is like the wind.

According to John 3:8, how can you tell when the wind is blowing?

Can you tell where it has come from or where it is going?

Who is in control of giving new spiritual life to sinful people?

26.2

Copy Work

Copy the lines from the memory passage in your nicest handwriting.

John 3:3

In reply, Jesus declared, “I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.”

Handwriting practice lines consisting of solid top and bottom lines with a dashed midline.

Copy work page for Early Readers. See Lesson Book session 26.2 Step #2

from The Creator Student Pages (download)

S26.3

Christian Beliefs

Chapter 13, pages 90-94: “What Does it Mean to Become a Christian?”

1. “Effective calling” comes from _____ and always results in _____.

2. The “gospel call” is different from the “effective call” of God. How is it different?

- The gospel call comes through _____ preaching.
- Not all gospel calls are _____.
- Only God can make the human preaching of the gospel _____.

3. All who respond in faith to the gospel call will receive _____.

- Their sins are _____
- They will experience _____ God.

4. Regeneration is a _____ he imparts _____ to us.

Older students can supplement the regular lesson by reading from Christian Beliefs by Wayne Grudem. See Lesson Book session 26.3 Supplement Step (after Step #2)

This page will help check their comprehension of Grudem’s writing.

- What role does a human play in his or her regeneration? _____
- How long does it take for God to regenerate someone? _____
- List a few of the changes that take place in a person when he or she is regenerated:

5. Conversion is a willing, personal, individual response to the gospel call in which a person _____ and _____

26.3

I Get It!!!

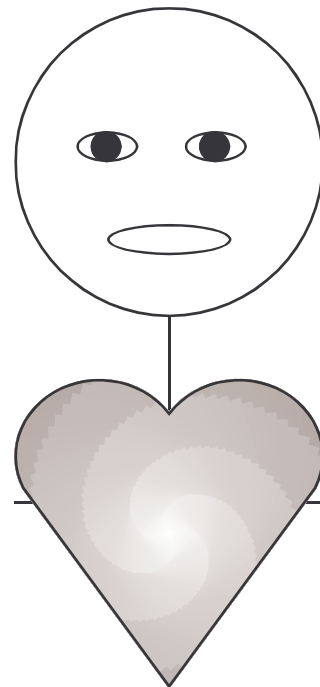
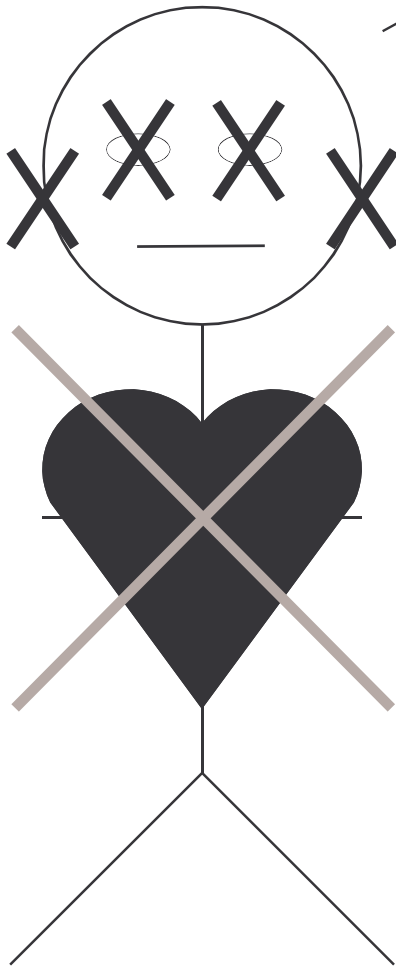
What does it mean to be "born again"?

Being born again is when God gives life to someone's spirit, which allows them to believe in him.

Born once in Adam

Born again in Christ

gospel



*Instructions for discussing/
marking this page are in Lesson
Book session 26.4 Step #2.*

26.4

What is wrong with these statements?

“If I tell someone about Jesus, and they don’t believe in him, then I haven’t done a very good job of telling them. It’s up to us to explain the gospel in order so that people can believe in Jesus.”

“Once someone hears the gospel, it is up to them to decide if they want to believe in Jesus or not, and if they like the message, they’ll believe in him, and if they don’t, they won’t. Everyone has to decide for themselves. Once they decide, then God will come into their hearts.”

“God doesn’t do anything to save someone until they invite him to.”

“The very first thing that has to happen in order for you to be saved is you have to change the way you’re living and turn from your sins.”

This page can be used with older students if desired before, after, or during the apologetics discussion (session 26.4 Step #3). It contains the half-truths or false statements they must defend from the memory passage and/or theology lesson taught in Lesson 26.

26.5

SUMMARY of John 3:1-8

Nicodemus was a Pharisee who wanted to know more about Jesus. Jesus told him that the only way to be part of the kingdom of God is to be born again. This meant the Spirit had to give new life to him so he could believe in Jesus.

Summary/drawing page for Early Readers. See Lesson Book session 26.4 Step #4.

Summarization is a key skill incorporated into The Disciple Curriculum. This page will expose pre-writers to what a summary is by summarizing the memory passage for them. They should read it and then “summarize” it themselves by drawing a picture to show what the memory passage was about.

from The Creator Student Pages (download)

26.6

TEST 26

1. Recite John 3:1-8 from memory.
2. How many “birthdays” does a believer have?_____
3. Which Pharisee did Jesus talk to about being “born again?”

4. What has to happen to a person if they can become able to enter the kingdom of God?

5. What does it mean to be “born again?”

Who gives new spiritual life to sinners?_____

Are we able to understand or know God when we are born in Adam?

Test can be conducted orally for Early Readers.

What does it mean
to be “born again”?

Being born again is
when God gives life
to someone’s spirit,
which allows them to
believe in him.

*This and the following pages are
the pages you’ll need from Story
Lessons to teach Lesson 26
session 26.3 Step #2.*

Princess Selena

The rain dripped steadily on the long procession of mourners who had come to pay their respects to the king's daughter. In the night she had died of a fever, and she was only 16 years old. All the kingdom wept for her.

But they had wept for Princess Selena long before she had died. For her father, the king, was a cruel and harsh man. He treated her miserably, never letting her come out doors, never letting her make friends as she grew up. Her hair and clothes were dirty and worn, for he cared not about her appearance. He had made a bargain with a prince from far away, and in exchange for his daughter's hand in marriage, he had gained the whole northern forest lands for his own. And the truth was that he was not really her father. When Selena was only just born, she had been taken from a peasant family to live with the king, who had no children.

But now she had died, only weeks before she was to be married. There would be no wedding. And while the kingdom wept for poor Selena, her father ranted and raved about his bargain with the prince. All he feared now that she was dead was that his precious forest would be taken from him.

"A bargain's a bargain," he muttered, "and Prince Hector isn't likely going to give up his end of this one."

"King Horace," whispered a servant, "there is someone here to see you."

The king looked up fearfully. "Let him in."

from *The Creator Story Lessons*

A thin and feeble old man limped into the king's presence. "I will let your daughter live again," he said.

"What!" the king was outraged at this impossible suggestion. "No one can do such a thing!"

"I can," said the man. "Give her to me. You will see."

The king thought fast. "You can bring her back to me?" he asked the old man.

"I can bring her back to life," he said. "But if I do, she will be my daughter. She will wake and know only me as her father, and will love me as though I had always been. She has only to kiss me once, and she is mine."

Why would she kiss you? thought the king disdainfully as he eyed the wrinkled, dirty old man. If Selena was brought back to life, only to become the possession of this old man, it wouldn't do the king any good. He needed to be able to give her to Prince Hector if he wanted to keep his prized lands. *But if he indeed can bring her to life,* thought King Horace, *I'll kill him and then she'll be mine again.*

"You may do what you wish," he told the old man. "Only let me say goodbye to her."

"She will not know you," said the old man.

"Bring her to me when you have brought her to life."

The old man limped past the king's throne into Selena's bedroom where she lay. When he had closed the door, he stood up straight and removed his cloak. His back was no longer bent, his legs no longer crippled. He lifted his strong arms above Selena and said in a quiet voice, "Live."

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Selena's eyelashes fluttered. Her head turned and her fingertips twitched. She sat up. "What happened?" she mumbled. She looked at her bed. "I was sick," she remembered. "But where am I? What am I doing here?" Then she looked at the old man. "What is your name?" she asked him.

"I am Matthew."

"You are my father." Selena looked peacefully at Matthew. "I remember you. I know your face." And she leaned up and kissed him on the cheek.

Matthew pulled Selena out of bed and they slipped back into the king's throne room, hoping to go unnoticed, but the king had summoned his guards and soldiers and was waiting for Selena and the old man.

"So you think you're just going to take away my daughter?" the king said. "I will have her back."

Selena looked at the king. "I don't know you. You aren't my father," she said to him. "I will go with Matthew."

"Oh, no you won't," snarled the king, and as he tried to grab her Matthew struck him with his walking stick. The guards rushed forward, but as they came at Matthew and Selena, an unexpected thing happened. Fifty of Prince Hector's soldiers stormed into the room and overtook the few guards that were fighting for King Horace. And they seized King Horace himself.

"What's this? What are you doing?" the king struggled angrily as he tried to figure out what was happening. "Hector will pay for this!"

"Hector already has paid," Matthew said. "He is a good prince who loves his people. And I am one of them. I will give my daughter to him

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and she will live a long and happy life in his care. And you will lose your forest lands, and all the lands that you own, for Hector is claiming them for himself!”

Princess Selena married Prince Hector, and she did live a long and happy life. When Hector became the king, he fought against Horace and won, and all of Horace’s land became his own. And he made Matthew his top advisor.

Could this story really have happened? Of course not, because a person who is dead cannot come back to life again just by having someone say, “Live.” Or could they?

The Bible tells us that we are born as slaves to sin. We are the property of sin because of Adam’s sin. When we are born into this world we are children of Adam. We are born dead to God, just as Adam was dead to God when he was sent out of God’s presence in the Garden of Eden. There is nothing we can do to help ourselves live again.

But God, who spoke light into the world, and who breathed life into Adam when he was only a handful of clay, has the power to give life by saying, “Live.” He can give life to dead people, just as surely as he can create the universe out of nothing. And that is what he does.

But when he does, the person who he gives life to becomes his. It is as if they are born again, into a new family, with a new life. Just as Selena awoke to know her real father, so those who are given new life awake to know God. They no longer belong to sin. They are a part of the family of God. How do we know when God has given new life? A spirit which is alive will know, love, and obey Jesus. Faith in Jesus is like Selena’s kiss, which showed Matthew that she belonged to him.

Questions for Discussion or Writing

1. How did Princess Selena die? How old was she?
2. What was her father, the king, like?
3. Why was the king upset that Selena had died?
4. How did Matthew make her come alive?
5. What happened when Selena became alive again?
6. How did Prince Hector beat King Horace in the end?
7. Can a man really make a dead girl come alive? Can God make a dead person live? How do we know that God has the power to give life?
8. Did Selena ask to be made alive? Could she have asked? Can someone who is spiritually dead (dead in their ability to know God) ask for God to give them life?
9. What was the sign that Selena had truly become Matthew's daughter? What is the sign that someone has become God's child?
10. Would Selena have kissed Matthew if he had not brought her to life? Will someone believe in Jesus if God hasn't first brought their spirit back to life?

You can also read Christian Beliefs pages 90-94: **“What Does it Mean to Become a Christian?”** or Systematic Theology chapter 34: **Regeneration.**

from The Creator Memory Passages and Storylines

Date recited _____

Approximate score (circle one): 100% 80% 50% less than 50%

26. John 3:1-8

1 Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council. 2 He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him.”

3 In reply Jesus declared, “I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again. ”

4 “How can a man be born when he is old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!”

5 Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. 6 Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. 7 You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’ 8 The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”

Students use this page when learning a new passage. (NIV text) At the top of the page is an optional scoring guide.

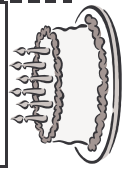
Storyline 26

Two Birthdays

Student copy of Storyline 26

Jesus' life on earth

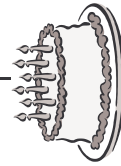
Paul is born, about 5 A.D.



dead to sin

alive in Christ

dead in the body, but waiting for resurrection!



Paul is born again, about 35 A.D.

Adam

Christ

Judgment and Death in Hell

Eternal Life with God in Heaven